

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner



Wednesday, July 18, 2018

PHYTOPLANKTON MONITORING IN CONNECTICUT

Kristin Russo, Bureau of Aquaculture

The Department of Agriculture (DoAg)'s Bureau of Aquaculture is responsible for monitoring the levels of phytoplankton in coastal waters.

The phytoplankton DoAg is looking for consists of algae and dinoflagellates, both of which have the potential to produce toxins that can affect shellfish consumption.

Due to their filter feeding nature, shellfish have the ability to concentrate toxigenic dinoflagellates from the water column when the dinoflagellates are present in shellfish growing waters. The toxins produced by the dinoflagellates can cause illness and death in humans.

The danger of these toxins is that they are not typically destroyed by cooking or processing and cannot be detected by taste.

Since the dinoflagellates are naturally occurring, their presence in the water column or traces of their toxin in shellfish meat does not necessarily constitute a health risk.

To protect the consumer, DoAg must evaluate the concentration of the toxin present in the shellfish or the dinoflagellate concentration in the water column against the levels established by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Model Ordinance to determine what action, if any, should be taken.

There are three types of shellfish poisonings which are specifically addressed in the NSSP Model Ordinance relevant to the waters of Connecticut: paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), neurotoxic shellfish poisoning (NSP) and amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP), also known as domoic acid poisoning.

All three are dangerous toxins, and PSP and ASP can cause death at sufficiently high concentrations. In addition, ASP can cause long lasting neurological damage. PSP is caused by dinoflagellates of the genus *Alexandrium*. NSP is caused by brevetoxins produced by the dinoflagellates of the genus *Karenia*.

Both of these dinoflagellates can produce "red tides", i.e. discolorations of seawater caused by the blooms of algae. Toxic blooms of these dinoflagellates can occur unexpectedly or follow predictable patterns.

Historically, *Alexandrium* blooms have occurred between April and Octo-

ber along the Pacific coast from Alaska to California and in the Northeast from the Canadian provinces to Long Island Sound—but these patterns may be changing.

The blooms generally last only a few weeks and most shellfish, with the exception of clams which retain the toxin for longer periods, clear themselves rapidly of the toxin once the bloom dissipates. The suitability of some growing areas for shellfish harvesting is periodically influenced by the presence of PSP, ASP, and NSP, or other marine biotoxins.

The occurrence of these toxins is often unpredictable, and the potential for them to occur exists along most coastlines of the United States and other countries having shellfish sanitation Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) agreements with the United States.

As a result, states or countries with MOUs with the United States need to make contingency plans to address shellfish-borne intoxications.

DoAg staff regularly sample for hazardous algal blooms (HABs) during the months of April to October using three methodologies, the most frequently being phytoplankton net sampling. With regular water sampling phytoplankton samples are collected from 34 sites using a vertical plankton tow.

The samples are then brought back to the lab to be identified and counted. Each phytoplankton net is set up with a rotor to measure the amount of water flowing through the net during a sample.

This information is then used to calculate the number of any identified species in the sample. Phytoplankton sites are ranked to encourage a heavier focus in areas of historic concern and those that are heavily harvested.

DoAg works with officials in Rhode Island and New York to determine the level of threat of HABs from these surrounding states. Rhode Island historically has more frequent and severe HABs than occur in Connecticut—so frequent that in 2016 they began to sample for HABs all year round.

Although Connecticut has not seen the HABs that other states within New England have seen, DoAg is prepared to handle more intense and frequent sampling.



Phytoplankton net monitoring kit. Clockwise from the top left: Salinity/temperature probe, graduated cylinder, sample bottles and lids, carrying case, and phytoplankton net with rotor.

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.45	1.72
LARGE	1.39	1.53
MEDIUM	.70	.83

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.66	1.89
LARGE	1.58	1.79
MEDIUM	1.18	1.29
SMALL	.82	.92

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Choice 2-3	104.00	107.50
Select 1-2	98.00	103.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	78.00	86.00
Choice 1-2	75.00	78.00
Select 1-2	70.00	75.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	61.00	65.00
boners 80-85% lean	57.00	61.00
lean 88-90% lean	50.00	55.50
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-130 lbs	70.00	85.00
FEEDER STEERS Med and Large 1		
400-500 lbs	150.00	175.00
500-600 lbs	140.00	170.00
600-700 lbs	135.00	162.00
700-800 lbs	132.00	147.00
800-900 lbs	130.00	150.00
FEEDER HEIFERS Med and Large 1		
400-500 lbs	135.00	160.00
500-600 lbs	120.00	145.00
600-700 lbs	120.00	150.00
700-800 lbs	115.00	127.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	210.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
160-200 lbs	70.00	90.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	135.00	150.00
60-80 lbs	160.00	195.00
80-100 lbs	215.00	255.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	180.00	215.00
130-180 lbs	225.00	265.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	200.00	235.00
150-250 lbs	395.00	430.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
52-56	200-300 lbs	56.50 63.00
	300-350 lbs	60.00 60.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	51.00 57.00
	300-350 lbs	51.00 56.00
Sows, US 1-3		
	300-500 lbs	30.00 38.00
	500-700 lbs	31.50 32.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per small square. July 13, 2018.

Alfalfa/Grass-Supreme	345.00	435.00
Alfalfa/Grass-Premium	190.00	230.00
Grass Hays-Premium	290.00	315.00
Grass Hays-Good	155.00	200.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE,MAC,XFCY,TRYPK, 88	30.00	31.00
APPLE,MAC,XFCY,TRYPK, 100	24.00	24.00
APPLE,MAC,XFCY,TRYPK, 125	16.00	18.00
APPLE,MAC,XFCY,TRYPK 138	16.00	18.00
BEANS, RND GRN, MACH PK, BU	20.00	24.00
BEANS, POLE, BU	28.00	30.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	25.00	28.00
BEAN SPROUTS,10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, RED, 12 BN/CTN	16.00	18.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12-1 PINT, LG	36.00	36.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	22.00	22.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	26.00	26.00
CORN-SWEET, BAG, 5 DOZEN	14.00	16.00
COLLARDS, 12 BNCH/CTN	13.00	14.00
KALE, GRN, 12 BNCH/CTN	13.00	14.00
PARSNIPS, 20 LB LOOSE, MED	23.00	25.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB, MEDIUM	20.00	25.00
PEAS, GRN, ENG, BU	40.00	43.00
RHUBARB, OPNFIELD, 20 LB	35.00	36.00
SQUASH, YLWSTRNCK,1/2 BU,M	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, ZCH, 1/2 BU, M	10.00	12.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS,VINERIPE	15.00	15.00
TOMS, GHS, 10 LBS,HEIRLOOM	18.00	23.00

BOSTON SHIPPED IN

Price Range. Per unit.

BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU CARTON	22.00	28.00
BOKCHOY,BBY SHNGHAI,NJ, 1.35	22.00	24.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS,CA,25LB M	46.00	50.00
CABBAGE,GRN,NJ,50 LB, M	13.00	16.00
CABBAGE,RED,NJ, 50 LB,M/L	18.00	21.00
CABBAGE,SAVOY,NJ,40 LB,M/L	16.00	19.00
CHERRIES,WA,9-1/2, 15LB BAGD	35.00	45.00
CHINESE CABBAGE,NJ,1.3 BU,12	17.00	22.00
CUKES, NJ, 1-1/9, MEDIUM	28.00	34.00
CUKES, PICKLER, NJ, BU, S-M	38.00	44.00
DANDELION GREENS,12 BN/CTN	16.00	18.00
DAIKON, W/TOPS, NJ, 1-1/9, 12	20.00	25.00
DAIKON, TOPPED, NJ, 1-1/9, 12	22.00	24.00
EGGPLANT, NJ, 1-1/9, M	15.00	20.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 1.3 BU, 24	15.00	18.00
ESCAROLE, NJ, 1.3 BU, 24	16.00	18.00
KOHLRABI, NJ, 12 BN/CTN	15.00	20.00
LEEK, NJ, 12 BNCHS/CTN	26.00	28.00
LETT, NJ, GRNLF, 24/CTN	13.00	16.00
LETT, NJ, REDLF, 24/CTN	14.00	18.00
LETT, NJ, ROMAINE, 24/CTN	14.00	18.00
MESCLIN MIX, CA, 3 LBS	7.00	9.00
PARSLEY, PLAIN, NJ,60BN/1-1/4	24.00	28.00
PARSLEY, CURLY, NJ,60BN/1-1/4	22.00	28.00
PEACH,YLW,SC,3"UP, 1/2 BU	24.00	24.00
PEPPER, GRN, NJ, 1-1/9,JMBO	20.00	24.00
PEPPER, CUBAN, NJ, 1-1/9, M-L	20.00	22.00
PEPPER, JALEP, NJ, 1-1/9, M-L	24.00	26.00
PEPPER, JALEP, NJ, 1/2BU, M	14.00	16.00
PEPPER,LNGHOT,NJ,GREEN,1-1/9	18.00	20.00
PEPPER, POBLANO, NJ, 1-1/9	20.00	22.00
RADISHES, NJ, 24 BN/CRATE	14.00	16.00
SPINACH, SAVOY, NJ, 8-10OZ	12.00	14.00
SPINACH, SAVOY, NJ, 4-2.5LB	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTTERN, NJ, 1-1/9, M-L	22.00	26.00
SQUASH, BUTTERN, NJ, 1-1/9, M-L	25.00	32.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, NJ, 1-1/9, M-L	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, SPAGHET, NJ, 1-1/9, M-L	20.00	22.00
SWISS CHARD, MX CLR, NJ, 12	16.00	18.00
TOM, CHERRY, MD, 12-1 PINT, S-M	14.00	16.00
TOM, GRAPE, MD, 20 LB CTN, S-M	25.00	28.00
TOM, PLUM, MD, 25 LB CTN, XL	25.00	28.00
WATERMELON, NC, 10-14LB, EA	3.50	3.50

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - July 16, 2018

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	25.00	30.00
61-75 lbs.	50.00	52.50
76-90 lbs.	55.00	60.00
91-105 lbs.	65.00	67.50
106 lbs. & up	70.00	90.00
Farm Calves	82.50	90.00
Starter Calves	20.00	24.00
Veal Calves	75.00	185.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	80.00
Beef Heifers	80.00	91.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	82.00
Beef Steers	81.00	112.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00	112.00
Beef Bulls	84.00	112.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	655.00	875.00
Boars	1@	.01
Sows	21.00	25.00
Butcher Hogs each	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	70.00	115.00
Sheep each	55.00	170.00
Lambs each	70.00	225.00
Goats each	65.00	325.00
Kid Goats each	42.50	180.00
Canners	up to	57.50
Cutters	58.00	61.00
Utility Grade Cows	62.00	65.00
Rabbits each	5.00	32.50
Chickens each	3.00	21.00
Ducks each	5.00	14.00

BOSTON MARKET CUT FLOWERS

Wholesale price. \$/unit listed. July 17.

ASTER,MATSA,CA,/BN,L 7.50	8.50
ASTILBE, NL, 10/BN, XL 17.50	18.50
CORNFLWR,NENG,10, L 7.50	7.50
DAHLIA, NENG, /BN, L 13.50	13.50
DELPH,CA, /BN, L 9.50	10.00
DELPH, NENG, /BN, L 13.50	13.50
GERBERA,CD, EA, L 1.00	1.35
GLADS, CA, 10/BN, L 13.50	15.00
HYDRNGEA, NL, 5/BN, L 35.00	35.00
HYDRNGEA, NL, EA, L 5.50	5.50
LARKSPUR,CA, 10/BN,L 9.50	10.00
LAVENDER, EC, /BN, L 10.00	12.00
LILY,ASIA,CD,/BN, L 12.50	12.50
LILY,SIBERIA,CD,10/, L 25.00	27.50
LILY SORB,CD, 10/BN, L 25.00	27.50
LISIANTHUS,CD,10/BN,L 14.00	15.00
PEONY,PINK,NL,10/BN,L 25.00	25.00
PEONY,RED,NL,10/BN,L 45.00	45.00
PEONY,WHT,NL,10/BN,L 25.00	25.00
PEONY,NL, /STM, L 3.50	5.00
QU AN LACE, CA,/BN,L 8.50	9.50
RANUNCLS, NL,10/BN,L 15.00	16.00
SNAPDRGN,NENG,10,L 13.50	13.50
STOCK, DBL, CA, 10, L 9.50	10.00
SUNFLWR, NJ, 5/BN, L 6.50	7.50
SUNFLWR, NENG, EA, L 1.00	1.00
YARROW, PA, /BN, L 8.50	8.50
ZINNIA, pa, /BN, L 8.50	8.50

BOSTON MARKET ORGANIC

Price Range. Per unit.

BLACKBERRIES, CA,12-6OZ,L 36.00	36.00
BLUEBERRY, NJ, 12-6OZ, M-L 16.00	20.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 45 LBS 28.00	28.00
CARROTS, CA, 48-1 LB, M-L 36.00	36.00
EGGPLANT, NJ, 1-1/9 29.00	32.00
LETT, RMAINE, CA, 12-18OZ 42.00	42.00
MESCLIN MIX, CA, 3 LBS 8.00	9.00
SPINACH, BABY, CA, 4LB 12.00	13.00

ADVERTISEMENTS

DOAG ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST KRISTIN RUSSO

We sat down with DoAg environmental analyst Kristin Russo to talk about her first six months on the job with the agency's Bureau of Aquaculture in Milford, CT.

Q: What fascinates you about aquaculture?

A: The real question is, what doesn't fascinate me about aquaculture?

Since I came in for my interview for my internship with DoAg more than three years ago, I was hooked.

Kristin DeRosia-Banick explained briefly what the program was about, what happens here, and I immediately wanted to learn more. The magnitude of the work done by the Bureau of Aquaculture is far reaching and dependent on many factors including federal regulations, statutory requirements, partnerships with municipalities and state agencies, and the cooperation of harvesters.

Some examples of the work that we do to support the aquaculture and shellfish industry in Connecticut includes seawater and shellfish sampling, phytoplankton identification, report writing, statistical analysis, environmental impact studies, inspections of harvesting/dealing operations, issuing gear permits and harvest licenses, and performing outreach and education to name just a few of things we do.

Our day-to-day duties change frequently. Currently, boat captain Rick Seiden and I are out on the water four to five days per week to collect water and shellfish samples.

While we are doing this, another member of our staff is performing inspections of shellfish operations, someone else is working on writing up reports that will be evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, while other staff may be in the field sampling plankton, or working on a kelp research project with SeaGrant.

The environment and weather play a critical role in determining our daily and weekly scheduling of field work and growing-area management.

During a typical rainfall event, staff will drop everything in order to organize the response, which may include monitoring rainfall amounts across the state, talking to sewage treatment plant operators, collecting samples and closing shellfish growing areas. Our field work does not stop just because the weather is inclement—it actually increases.

The majority of staff time is spent out in the field, getting our hands dirty and usually coming back to the office muddy and smelling like fish. Some days this job makes you really appreciate a hot shower.

Phytoplankton monitoring allows us to determine the presence of plankton species that may produce toxins and contaminate shellfish meat.

Rainfall events flush pollutants from land into the growing area waters and contribute bacteria to the water, which needs to be monitored in order to prevent the harvest of shellfish from contaminated growing areas.

Sewage infrastructure may fail, and require staff to spend time at the sewage treatment plant and handle raw sewage. As much as we may or may not enjoy a given day in the field, the work we do out on the water and on the shore plays a critical role in the management of our State's shellfish resources.

Last Friday, we hiked to a meeting on the shore to discuss the fate of a tide gate and potential impacts to shellfish resource with a farmer, neighboring landowners, a shellfish harvester, as well as staff from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The wide range of stakeholders that came together to discuss and find solutions to a complex issue serves as just one example of how many different factors go into making decisions at DoAg.

If I were to pick the single-most fascinating thing about not just DoAg but the entire aquaculture and shellfish community is the passion everyone involved has for what they do.

Shellfishing is not an easy way to make a living and regulating this complex industry is equally as challenging.

What is most apparent to me is how much the staff in our department truly care about the industry and community they regulate. Nearly every day I wake up and think "I can't believe I get to do this job."

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

49-R. Dahlia tubers – exhibiting/cut varieties. \$6 each. For more information about purchasing and varieties email ifo@strongfarm.org.

51-R. For sale: Parts for Grimm Hay Tedders. Also, rough lumber. 860-684-3458.

56-R. 6 year old boar, excellent manners. Good breeder, trailer loads easily. Must be seen to appreciate. Yorkshire, Landrace, and Heritage. Call for more information. 860-668-2181.

58-R. Garlic, organically, locally grown for fall planting. Available in August. 860-391-3466 or jos@festivagardens.net.

59-R. Ford tractor 3600 w/mower \$5,000.00 B/O. Boat 14' Mirro Topper w/ 10 HP Johnson and trailer. \$2,200.00 B/O. Mearelli wine press and crusher. \$450.00. Camper accessories: Sewer hose, blocks, etc. Hopen grindstone. \$285.00. JD 1960 12 HP dismantled for restoration w/ rebuilt engine. \$400.00. Kohler 10 generator w/ 4 cycle Ford engine. \$500.00. White floor tile-new. Landscape equipment: carts, rollers, sweeper, wheel barrows, spreaders, scarifiers. Trailers- 25' x 8' Dovetail, 4'dump, 12' landscape w/side ramp. Tractor/Truck/ Boat batteries. \$50.00 each. Shop equipment: scroll saws, planers, saw sharpeners. Antique wood doors. Brinkman smoker grill. \$100.00. Honda self-propelled mower. \$165.00. 6' York rake. Call 860-918-8515.

60-R. For sale: 4 acre irrigation system, also 2 water pumps. Farmall I6 and BN. 860-237-1107.

WANTED

7-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

BILL DUESING MEMORIAL

Bill Duesing, co-owner of Old Solar Farm in Oxford, CT, organic advocate, and former executive director of the Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) died on July 12, 2018.

He was born August 19, 1942 in Detroit, MI. Bill received a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts from Yale University in 1964.

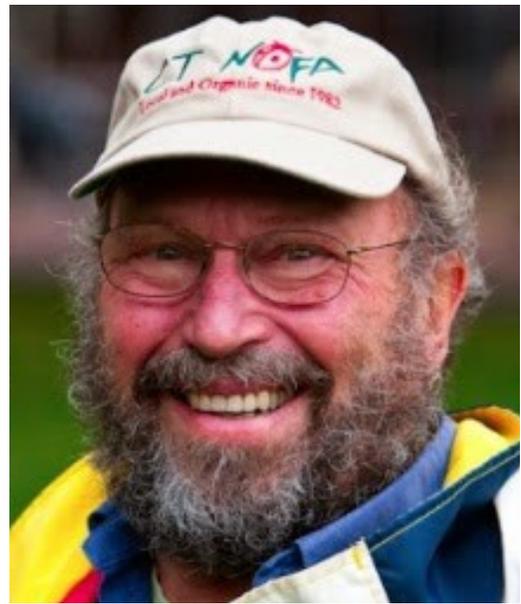
He is the founding chair of the New Haven Ecology Project and its Common Ground High School, located on a farm in New Haven. He was a founding board member and past president of the Connecticut Farmland Trust. He also served on the steering committee of the Connecticut Working Lands Alliance.

Bill was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut in 2010 and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from People's Action for Clean Energy in 2014.

He was the president of the NOFA Interstate Council until 2014, and was awarded the NOFA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 for his 40-plus years of work as an organic farmer, author, and environmental activist. Bill could often be seen at the state capitol providing testimony to various legislative committees and advocating for organic agriculture and greater local food sufficiency in Connecticut and the Northeast.

He is the author of *Living on the Earth: Eclectic Essays for a Sustainable and Joyful Future* published in 1993. He was the founding president of the Connecticut chapter of NOFA in 1982, where he served as their executive director for 12 years. From 1979 to 1983, he was an extension energy agent for New Haven County with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service.

From 1983 to 1987, Bill coordinated the High School in the Community curriculum development project to create courses in food, energy and agriculture which continue to be offered. Donations in Bill's memory may be made to the Bill Duesing Fund at CT NOFA.



Bill Duesing
Photo courtesy of Connecticut NOFA.

FARM AID COMING TO CONNECTICUT FOR THE FIRST TIME

Farm Aid's annual music and food festival is coming to the Xfinity Theatre in Hartford on September 22, 2018. DoAg has partnered with organizers of the annual music and food festival to increase awareness of the importance of local farms and food. Farm Aid's mission is to build a vibrant, family farm-centered system of agriculture in America.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

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